(a) whether Government have conducted any experiment to use LPG in vehicles as an alternative of petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that LPG can be used as fuel in vehicles; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to make its use in vehicles legal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) LPG is an established alternative and eco-friendly fuel for running vehicles. Government have already allowed the use of LPG as auto fuel in vehicles through LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001. In terms of this Order, the vehicle is to be fitted with a fixed auto LPG tank; replaceable cylinders being unsafe, are not permitted.

Hike in price of Gas

2285. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Group of Ministers in respect of Gas price hike; and

(b) by when the Central Government will decide on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Group of Ministers (GoM) has not yet made its recommendations to the Government in respect of any Gas price hike.

(b) Does not arise

Operations of duty free shops of ITDC at airports

2286. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making an effort to clean up the operations of all its duty free shops run by ITDC at airports and other places in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are also examining on how to curb unnecessary imports of foreign items;

(c) what steps are proposed to carefully study the various lobbies operation to ensure that ITDC makes huge purchases of luxury items and consumable goods; and

(d) The steps proposed to examine all such activities of ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Imports for sales through duty free shops are based on demand of products at the shops and the pace of their sale.

(c) Purchases are made only after approval is accorded by the Committees duly constituted for this purpose.

(d) In addition to management reviews at regular intervals, Internal Audit, Government Audit and Audit through CAG also critically examine the activities of India Tourism Development Corporation.

Development of Tourist Sports

2287. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fact that in spite of increasing foreign exchange from tourism there is no commendable improvement in the tourism spots in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount spent for improvement of facilities at various tourist spots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has taken up the scheme of Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits and Product/ Infrastructure Development of Destinations during the Tenth Plan to improve the tourist infrastructure. The details of the projects sanctioned and amount released to the various States during the Tenth Plan for improvement of tourist facilities are on the enclosed Statement.